MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I wish to raise a question of privilege. It is now only 15 minutes and we have exhausted all the questions. The number of questions answered is so small.

PRESIDENT: Perhaps the number of questions put is also very small. I think I have dealt with all the questions which have been put and by tomorrow all of them will be answered.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: But a very large number of them have not been answered.

PRESIDENT; Perhaps the information in respect of them have not yet been received.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. M. Bhaskaran Nair, which reads:

"I beg leave to move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.* the serious situation created by the recrudescence of malaria in the pakuthies of Perumkadavila, Ottasekharamangalam, Kunnathukal, and Vilappil in the Neyyattinkara taluk, and the distress, suffering and alarm consequent upon it".

PRESIDENT: Has the honourable member leave of the House to discuss the motion?

The question that leave be given to discuss the motion was put to vote and declared lost.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of another adjournment motion from Mr. M. R. Narayana Pillai. It reads :— "I beg leave of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.* the wrongful acts of and the unsatisfactory methods employed by the Tahsildars and other officers in respect of the collection and distribution of paddy, mixing chaff with paddy, illegally assuming possession of the properties of poor people, committing assault and thereby causing unnecessary grievance and hardship to the general public."

I should like to ask the honourable member whether he has put any specific instance before Government. Has the honourable member put any single case of this kind, of any of this category before any officer of Government till now? I am saying to the honourable members of this House that these are serious charges. I have said that Government would, as soon as they get intimation of such allegations, start a public enquiry. The honourable member may perhaps know that there are at present very many officers dealing with paddy and rice. The moment any complaint about any officer of Government is received, then at once some kind of punitive action is taken which will have its repercussion, but to make a post mortem examination of this kind, is unfair.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I am able to cite a definite instance. A very respectable person came to me and told me in the presence of a District Judge that such and such a thing took place.

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PRESIDENT: I am now asking the honourable member to tell me the name of the Tahsildar of whom this has been said. If he can reveal the name to me, I shall start enquiries within half an hour.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Public talk.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Does the Honourable member believe in public talk which attributes all kinds of charges in an irresponsible manner? I tell honourable members of this House that this is a very important point and I want this matter to be perfectly clear. Either these Tahsildars exist or they do not. Either the members of the Legislature have the courage to announce the particular person who is said to be guilty of such charges or they have not. They do not want to mention the name of the Tahsildar lest they should incur the displeasure of the Tahsildar or the displeasure of the Peishkar or whichever officer of Government it may be.

How are the Government to know which Tahsildar mixes chaff with paddy? How are they to know which Tahsildar does not? Am I expected to order all Tahsildars to be suspended tomorrow morning?

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I should say in this connection that that there is a very efficient C. I. D.

PRESIDENT: It is for the simple reason that the C. I. D. proceeds on the basis of local reputation and it is because the C. I. D. people have failed to bring to the notice of the Government the name of the Tahsildar concerned that I am asking the honourable member to tell the name of the particular Tahsildar and I undertake to have him suspended. Honourable members who make charges should give names, for justice has to be done. If honourable members will not give the names in public let them give the names in sealed envelopes in the course of this evening, or by tomorrow evening. Then I shall start enquiry immediately. After all, the whole work of the collection of paddy, the whole of the distribution of paddy, the whole movement of paddy from one place to another, is in the hands of the Revenue Officers. If the general idea is to group all officers together as corrupt, they will be discouraged the correct man will be disheartened.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: I want to submit to this House and to you, Sir, that it is not through fear that we are unable to give the names of the Tahsildars. It is a fact that I am not at all afraid of even bigger officials than Tahsildars. Justice and law are administrated here.

PRESIDENT: The question is if the Member has the leave of the House to discuss the motion?

The House voted against leave being given.

ELECTION TO THE FOOD CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to other bussiness, I have to inform the Members that four members have to be elected by this House to a Committee which is proposed to be constituted to advise this Government on food control measures. The election will be conducted today after the regular business for the day is over.

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